

WARRENVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HISTORICAL UPDATE

VOLUME 32, ISSUE 1 WINTER 2017

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

2016 was a great year for the Historical Society and we are excited as we look forward to 2017. The Board is very thankful for all our volunteers, collaborators, and supporters who helped us keep Warrenville history alive last year! We were especially grateful to close out the year with a successful Christmas Fest (thanks to the Museum Guild) and Holiday Open House (thanks to our newest board members, Julie Clark and Melissa Simmons). It was a wonderful seasonal joy to have the Museum filled with music and a live painting session by our Artist-in-Residence, Maggie Capettini.

In 2017, we look forward to continue our popular programs, expanding our online presence and making better use of our beautiful surroundings in Leone Schmidt Heritage Park. 2017 is also a banner year for

our community as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the incorporation of Warrenville. We hope to see you at City Hall on Sunday, January 29th at 2:00 p.m. as we tell the story of the long debate around incorporation and how we came to be the City of Warrenville. Help us make the City's Anniversary year historic by pledging your support to protecting Warrenville history! Renew your membership, encourage a friend, family member, a fellow Warrenville enthusiast or history lover to join us in membership as well. We appreciate all of your past support and hope you will join us as we continue to make Warrenville history meaningful!

--Lynn Burgess, President
Board of Directors

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Jan 29 "Debating Incorporation" Celebrating the City's 50th Anniversary

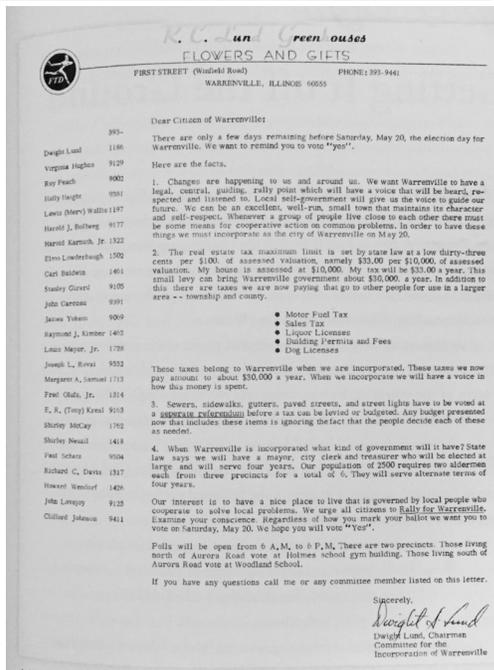
Save the Date:
July 29 Summer Tea

Warrenville Historical Museum & Art Gallery
February - May,
September-December
Sun. 1-4 p.m.
June, July & August
Wed. & Sun. 1-4 p.m.

DEBATING INCORPORATION

This is an exciting year for the City of Warrenville. 2017 brings the 50th Anniversary of our community incorporating as the City of Warrenville. 133 years after the founding of Warrenville by Colonel Julius Warren, residents voted to allow a governing body to be formed. The debate around the incorporation was a long fought one, with the first of seven votes held in 1927. The final winning vote came forty years after that first vote in May of 1967.

You can learn more about the debate at the Historical Society's program "Debating Incorporation" an event held in collaboration with the Warrenville Public Library and the City of Warrenville, on Sunday, January 29th at 2:00 p.m. at the Warrenville City Hall at 3S258 Manning Avenue. The event is free, registration is required through the Library at www.warrenville.org or (630)393-1171.



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Letter from Dwight Lund and the Committee for the Incorporation of Warrenville, sent two days prior to the election and seen as crucial in the successful vote to incorporate

HISTORY SPEAKS: MARIA ROYCE MACK

TAKEN FROM THE 2016 CEMETERY WALK

If you missed our 2016 Cemetery Walk where we featured the stories of families whose names grace our streets and parks, please enjoy reading the script that was read during the walk. Each year we love to feature stories from Warrentville's rich history; if there is someone you would like to hear about, please contact us. We hope you all enjoy learning more about Maria Mack and the family that gave us Mack Road.

"My name is Maria Royce Mack and I was born on March 27, 1820 in Essex, New York. When I was a teenager, my parents moved our family to Will County, an area that at the time was almost more developed than Chicago thanks to the Illinois and Michigan Canal.

"On July 3, 1842, I married Edward Packer Mack, another pioneer in the area. Edward had left his family farm in Pennsylvania when he was 20 years old to explore other areas in the rapidly expanding country. He first moved to Vermont and worked as a clothier and cloth dresser. After five years, he returned to Pennsylvania and 'boated' on the Schuylkill Canal for a season, before packing up a wagon with drygoods and groceries and heading west. Edward peddled his wares throughout northern Illinois and Wisconsin for two years while working on farms breaking up prairie sod. While he was traveling the area looking for land to set up his own farm, Edward found a wonderful woman to marry - me! While we were still newlyweds, we purchased 240 acres of timberland in Winfield Township, near our brother-in-law's, Israel Mather's land, which at the time was 2 ½ miles north of the growing community of Warrentville. We quickly made the farm our home and loved being able to raise our ten children there.

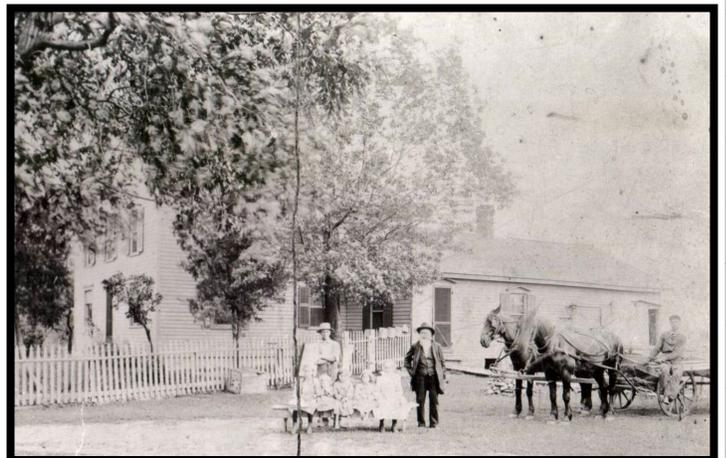
"Our farm provided well for our family with its crops, steers, sheep, and hogs. Our home was three stories tall and also held a school for the area farm children on the second floor. Emma Hobson, my cousin, taught at the school for a time as did her sister, Celia, and another cousin, Phebe Mather. It was wonderful to be able to offer a good education for our children and other farm kids.

"Our home was also well known for being at the end of what you all know of today as Mack Road. Now Mack Road is a convenient east west passage way

in your days of avoiding traffic on Winfield Road and Route 59, but for the first twenty years that we lived on our farm it was merely a drive leading east from our home to Winfield Road. In order for us to get anywhere, we had to travel east to Winfield Road first. It took a court case against our niece, who refused to allow a road to be built through her property to our west, and local farmers literally building the road themselves to finally get some western passage in 1878. A bridge was finally built in 1893, a much easier way to get across the river rather than forging it as we had to do prior to that.

"As our children grew, they, like their father had before them, wanted to strike out on their own. Many of them tried their hands at farming their own land in Iowa near other Mack family members. When our daughter Lottie returned to Illinois, she was a great help to us as she watched her younger siblings while Edward and I made frequent visits back to see family in Pennsylvania. When she was not helping us, she worked as a nurse in Chicago and cared for patients in the Winfield Township area. While caring for a family in West Chicago, she became ill with black diphtheria and tragically died. The illness that took our wonderful daughter was not done though and quickly spread to four of other children, taking two more of them far far too young. I followed them to the grave just eight years later.

"The family farm and homestead was passed down to our son Elmer and then his son Clarence before most of the land was sold to the DuPage County Forest Preserve in 1936. Our great-grandson Lloyd was the last Mack to live at the home."



Mack Family Farm

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE CAPTURES WARRENVILLE HISTORY ON DISPLAY



We hope you have been following us on Facebook to see the work our current Albright-inspired Artist-in-Residence, Maggie Capettini, has been doing since last fall. She has captured Warrenville history in five paintings so far, which can be seen on display at the Historical Museum & Art Gallery when we reopen this spring. Maggie will be painting more history in 2017, so follow us on Facebook or check out her website at maggiecapettini.com for more information and to watch her work evolve. Maggie's website also features other work she has done painting historic scenes in other communities.

Maggie's plein air style of oil painting immerses her in the locations she paints. We were happy to host her at our Holiday Open House on Friday, December 9th as she painted a scene of the museum, her first interior, pictured here. Visitors were amazed by watching her composition and skill first hand.

Maggie is our second artist as part of our Albright-inspired Artist-in-Residency program which is made possible by a City of Warrenville Hotel Motel Tax Fund Grant.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AND CALL TO SERVICE

January is National Thank You month. The Historical Society could not operate the Museum, offer programs or adequately preserve our community's history without our wonderful volunteer crew. They truly are the backbone of our organization. We want to extend our deepest gratitude for all the work they do!

If you are still looking for a New Year's resolution, resolve to spend some time this year working on a Historical Society project or helping our museum director at the museum. We are always looking for people to join our

wonderful group of volunteers and especially looking for docents and student docents who can help be at the museum for a few hours each year or a few times a year. Our docents work closely with our director and help to great museum visitors. We are always happy to help students get extra-credit hours or fulfill organizational service hours requirements. If you are interested in helping out please contact us at (630)393-4215 or info@warrenvillehistorical.org. You can also download our volunteer application on our website www.warrenvillehistorical.org.

"VOLUNTEERS DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE THE TIME; THEY JUST HAVE THE HEART." - ELIZABETH ANDREW

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

Do you know a Warrenville senior heading off to college in the fall? The Warrenville Historical Society is happy to continue to offer a \$500 scholarship to a 2017 graduate from either Wheaton Warrenville South or St. Francis High Schools. Eligible seniors must have also graduated from Bower, Johnson or St. Irene's elementary schools and be a current Warrenville resident to apply. Homeschool students who would have met those requirements if they had attended public/private school are also welcome to apply. Please see our website www.warrenvillehistorical.org for more information and to download the scholarship application. Students can also pick up an application from their school's guidance counselor's office. We strongly encourage all students who qualify to apply. The application deadline is March 1, 2017. Please contact the Historical Society with any questions. Funding for the scholarship comes from the Historical Society's Annual Summer Tea Fundraiser.



2016 Scholarship Winners Laura Seiberlich and Jennifer Wu with Committee Members Martha Rogers and Lucy Bernard



WARRENVILLE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

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Vice President

Leslie Schatz

Treasurer

Marty Rogers

Secretary

David Anderson

Directors

Lucy Bernard

Julie Clark

Melissa Simmons

Tim Sleep

Board Meetings:

Second Monday of the Month

Newsletter Editor:

Sara Phalen, Director/Curator

Save the date! The Museum Guild is gearing up to begin its work of helping support the Historical Society through fundraising. We thank them for their work on the Summer Tea and Christmas Fest that is invaluable to supporting our efforts. Mark your calendars for the 2017 Summer Tea which will be held on Saturday, July 29th!

SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS, THEY SUPPORT US!

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Voegtle's Auto Service, Inc.

Warrenville Lions Club

Warrenville Park District

Warrenville Public Library

Weekdays @ Mundays